effective rate of customs duty, excluding the CVD and Special Additional Duty (SAD), after the budget would be 27.5% as against 30% prior to the budget.

(b) The reduction in customs duty being marginal, it is not likely to have a significant impact on the manufacturing industry.

(c) Dumping is a distinct issue, having no direct relation to the rate of duty.

RBI Suggestion to State for Borrowing at Competitive Rates

1450. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has suggested that State Governments should borrow at competitive rates based on individual strength;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The market borrowing programme for State Governments is implemented by Reserve Bank of India, in 3 or 4 tranches during the year with the same preannounced coupon rate for all States for the amounts as allotted by Government of India. It was decided in a meeting of all Finance Secretaries of States that the State Governments be offered a facility to raise 5 to 35 per cent of their market borrowing in a flexible manner as regards timing, maturity and rate of interest. Reserve Bank is ascertaining the options of the State Governments regarding the loans to be raised by them through this facility during the year 1999-2000.

Growth Rate of Indian Economy

*1451. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of growth of Indian economy during the first nine months of the current financial year;

(b) how does it compare with the rate of growth registered during the corresponding months of previous year; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to boost growth rate particularly in the field of industrial production and exports?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) As per the advanced estimates released by CSO, the overall economic growth in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1998-99 is estimated at 5.8 per cent as compared to growth rate of 5 per cent during 1997-98 (Quick Estimates).

(c) The Economic Survey 1998-99 presented to the Parliament few days ago highlights major economic reforms initiated by the Government to provide stimulus to the economic growth in general and industrial and exports growth in particular. Further, Union Budget 1999-2000 also announced number of measures to restore the momentum of industrial growth, to boost investment particularly in the infrastructure sectors and to revitalise exports.

Credit Deposit ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks in West Bengal

1452. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the overall Credit Deposit (CD) ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks in West Bengal;